

W A T

WATERFALL. *n. f.* [water and fall.] Cataract; cascade.
I have seen in the Indies far greater waterfalls than those of Nilus. *Raleigh.*

Not Lacedemon charms me more,
Than high Albania's airy walls,
Rebounding with her waterfalls. *Addison.*

WATERFOWL. *n. f.* Fowl that live, or get their food in water.

Waterfowl joy most in that air, which is likest water. *Bacon.*
Waterfowl supply the weariness of a long flight by taking water, and numbers of them are found in islands, and in the main ocean. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

Fish and waterfowl, who feed of turbid and muddy stony water, are accounted the cause of phlegm. *Floyer.*
The stomachs of waterfowl that live upon fish, are human. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

WATERGRUEL. *n. f.* [water and gruel.] Food made with oatmeal and water.

For breakfast milk, milk-pottage, watergruel, and flummery, are very fit to make for children. *Locke.*
The aliment ought to be slender, as watergruel acidulated. *Arbutnot on Diet.*

WATERINESS. *n. f.* [from watery.] Humidity; moisture.
The fore-runners of an apoplexy are dulness, night-mares, weakness, wateryness, and turgidity of the eyes. *Arbutnot.*

WATERISH. *adj.* [from watery.]
1. Resembling water.

Where the principles are only phlegm, what can be expected from the waterish matter, but an insipid manhood, and a stupid old infancy? *Dryden.*

2. Moist; insipid.
Some parts of the earth grow moorish or waterish, others dry. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

WATERISHNESS. *n. f.* [from waterish.] Thinness; remembrance of water.

A pendulous fluminess answers a pituitous state, or an acerbity, which resembles the tartar of our humours, or waterishness, which is like the ferocity of our blood. *Floyer.*

WATERLEAF. *n. f.* A plant. It hath a bell-shaped flower, consisting of one leaf, and cut into several segments: from the bottom part of the flower arises the point, which afterward becomes a fruit, opening in two parts, inclosing seeds of the same shape as the vessel. *Miller.*

WATERLILLY. *n. f.* [*Nymphaea*, Lat.] A plant. The characters are; the flower consists of several leaves, which expand in form of a rose; out of the flower cup arises the point, which afterwards becomes an almost globular fruit, consisting of many cells, filled with seeds, which are for the most part oblong. *Miller.*

Let them lie dry twelve months, to kill the water-weeds, as waterlilies and bull-rushes. *Walton's Angler.*

WATERMAN. *n. f.* [water and man.] A ferryman; a boatman.

Having blocked up the passage to Greenwich, they ordered the watermen to let fall their oars more gently. *Dryden.*

Bubbles of air working upward from the very bottom of the lake, the watermen told us that they are observed always to rise in the same places. *Addison on Italy.*

The waterman forlorn, along the shore,
Penive reclines upon his useless oar. *Gay.*

WATERMARK. *n. f.* [water and mark.] The utmost limit of the rise of the flood.

Men and beasts
Were borne above the tops of trees that grew
On th' utmost margin of the watermark. *Dryden.*

WATERMELON. *n. f.* A plant. It hath trailing branches, as the cucumber or melon, and is distinguished from other cucurbitaceous plants, by its leaf deeply cut and jagged, and by its producing uncreatable fruit. *Miller.*

WATERMILL. *n. f.* Mill turned by water.
Forth flowed fresh
A gushing river of black gory blood,
That drowned all the land whereon he stood:
The stream thereof would drive a watermill. *Fairy Queen.*

The picture may be set forth with fann houles and watermills. *Peacham on Drawing.*

Corn ground by windmills, erected on hills, or in the plains where the watermills flood. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

WATERMINT. *n. f.* A plant.

WATERMADISH. *n. f.* A species of water-creffes, which see.

WATERMART. *n. f.* A rat that makes holes in banks.
There be land-rats and water-rats. *Shakespeare.*

The pike is bold, and lies near the top of the water, watching the motion of any frog, or water-rat, or mouse. *Walton.*

WATERMOSSET. *n. f.* A species of water-creffes.

WATERVIOLET. *n. f.* [*bottonia*, Lat.] A plant. It hath a rose-shaped flower, consisting of one leaf, which is divided into two parts, almost to the bottom: in the center of the flower arises the point, which afterwards becomes a cylindrical fruit, in which are contained spherical seeds. *Miller.*

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WATERSAPPHIRE. *n. f.* A sort of stone.
Watersapphire is the occidental sapphire, and is neither of so bright a blue, nor so hard as the oriental. *Woodward.*

WATERWITH. *n. f.* [water and with.] A plant.
The waterwith of Jamaica growing on dry hills, in the woods, where no water is to be met with, its trunk, if cut into pieces two or three yards long, and held by either end to the mouth, affords so plentifully a limpid, innocent, and refreshing water, or sap, as gives new life to the doughty traveller or hunter. *Dorham's Physico-Theology.*

WATERWORK. *n. f.* [water and work.] Play of fountains; artificial spouts of water; any hydraulic performance.

Engines invented for mines and waterworks often fall in the performance. *Wilkins's Math. Magic.*

The French took from the Italians the first plans of their gardens, as well as waterworks. *Addison.*

WATERY. *adj.* [from water.]
1. Thin; liquid; like water.

Quicksilver, which is a most crude and watery body, heated, and pent in, hath the like force with gunpowder. *Bacon.*

The bile, by its saponaceous quality, mixeth the oily and watery parts of the aliment together. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

2. Taffels; insipid; vapid; spiritless.
We'll use this unwholesome humidity, this gross, watery pumpion. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*

No heterogeneous mixture use, as some
With watery turneps have debas'd their wines. *Philips.*

3. Wet; abounding with water.
When the big lip, and wat'ry eye
Tell me, the rising storm is nigh:
Tis then thou art yon angry main,
Deform'd by winds, and dalt'd by rain. *Prior.*

4. Relating to the water.
On the brims her fire, the wat'ry god,
Roll'd from a silver urn his crystal flood. *Dryden.*

5. Consisting of water.
The wat'ry kingdom is no bar
To stop the foreign spirits; but they come,
As o'er a brook, to see fair Portia. *Shakespeare.*

Those few escap'd
Famine, and anguish, will at last consume,
Wand'ring that wat'ry desert. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.*

Betwixt us and you wide oceans flow,
And wat'ry deserts. *Dryden's Indian Emperor.*

Together to the wat'ry camp they halte.
Perhaps you'll say,
That the attract'd wat'ry vapours rise
From lakes and seas, and fill the lower skies. *Blackmore.*

WATTLE. *n. f.* [from *waghen*, to shake, German. *Skinner.*]

1. The barbs, or loose red flesh that hangs below the cock's bill.
The loach is of the shape of an eel, and has a beard of wattles like a barbel.

The barbel is so called, by reason of his barb, or wattel, at his mouth, which is under his nose or chops. *Walton.*

His comb and wattels are an ornament becoming his martial spirit.

2. A hurdle.
To WATTLE. *v. a.* [parcelas, Saxon, *tsuiga*.] To bind with twigs; to form, by plating twigs one within another.

Might we but hear
The folded flocks penn'd in their wattled cotes,
Or found of pastoral reed with oaten flutes. *Milton.*

A plough was found in a very deep bog, and a hedge wattled standing. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

WAVE. *n. f.* [Saxon, *waegh*, Dutch, *wag*, French.]

1. Water raised above the level of the surface; billow; water driven into inequalities.

The shore, that o'er his wave-worn basis bow'd, *Shakespeare.*
The waves that rise would drown the highest hill;
But at thy check they flee, and when they hear
Thy thund'ring voice, they post to do thy will.
Amidst these toils succeeds the balmy night;
Now hissing waters the quench'd guns restore;
And weary waves withdrawing from the fight,
Are lull'd, and pant upon the silent shore. *Dryden.*

The wave behind impels the wave before.
Luxuriant on the wave-worn bank he lay
Stretch'd forth, and panting in the sunny ray. *Pope.*

2. Unevenness; inequality.

Thus it happens, if the glass of the prism be free from veins, and their sides be accurately plane and well polished, without those numberless waves, or curls, which usually arise from sand-holes a little smoothed in polishing with putty. *Newton.*

TO WAVE. *v. n.* [from the noun.]
1. To play loosely; to float.

I may find
Your warlike ensigns waving in the wind. *Dryden.*

Mellapous helm
He laces on, and wears the waving crest. *Dryden.*

W A W

2. To be moved as a signal.
A bloody arm it is, that holds a pine
Lighted, above the capitol, and now
It waves unto us. *B. Johnson's Catiline.*

3. To be in an unsettled state; to fluctuate.
They wave in and out, no way sufficiently grounded, no way resolved, what to think, speak, or write, more than only that because they have taken it upon them, they must be opposites. *Hooker, b. v.*

If he did not care whether he had their love or no, he wav'd indifferently 'twixt doing them neither good nor harm. *Shakespeare Coriolanus.*

TO WAVE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To raise into inequalities of surface.

He had a thousand noses,
Horns welk'd and wav'd like the entriged sea. *Shakespeare.*

2. To move loosely.
They wav'd their fiery swords, and in the air
Made horrid circles
Encas'd wav'd his fatal sword
High o'er his head. *Dryden.*

He beckoned to me, and, by the waving of his hand, directed me to approach the place where he sat. *Addison.*

3. To wait; to remove any thing floating.

Some men never conceive how the motion of the earth below should wave one from a knock perpendicularly directed from a body in the air above. *Brown's Vulg. Errors.*

4. To beckon; to direct by a waft or motion of any thing.
Look with what courteous action
It waves you to a more removed ground:
But do not go with it. *Shakespeare.*

5. [Gusser, Fr. *Skimmer*.] To put off.

He resolv'd not to wave his way upon this reason, that if he should but once, by such a diversion, make his enemy believe he were afraid of danger, he should never live without. *Watson's Life of the Duke of Buckingham.*

These, waving plots, found out a better way;
Some god defended, and preserv'd the play. *Dryden.*

6. To put aside for the present.

I have wav'd the subject of your greatness, to resign myself to the contemplation of what is more peculiarly yours. *Dryden.*

Since the her interest for the nation's wav'd,
Then I who fav'd the king, the nation fav'd. *Dryden.*

TO WAVER. *v. n.* [papian, Saxon.]

1. To play to and fro; to move loosely.
I took two triangular glasses, and one of them being kept fixt in the same posture, that the Iris it projected on the floor might not waver, I cast on the same floor another Iris, with another prism, moving it to and fro. *Boyle.*

The whitening shower descends,
At first then wavering. *Thomson's Winter.*

2. To be undecided; to be uncertain, or inconstant; to fluctuate; not to be determined.

In which amazement, when the miscreant
Perceived him to waver, weak and frail,
Whilst trembling horror did his conscience daunt,
And hellish anguish did his soul assail. *Fairy Queen.*

Remember where we are;
In France, among a fickle, wavering nation. *Shakespeare.*

Thou almost mak'st me waver in my faith,
To hold opinion with Pythagoras,
That souls of animals infuse themselves
Into the trunks of men. *Shakespeare.*

Hold fast the faith without wavering. *Heb. x.*
The wav'ring faith of people vain and light.
Faith as absolutely determines our minds, and as perfectly excludes all wavering, as our knowledge itself; and we may as well doubt of our own being, as we can, whether any revelation from God be true. *Locke.*

What if Hospinian should have said, that Luther wav'd in the point of the sacrament? does it follow that he really did so? *Atterbury.*

They, who at this distance from the first rise of the gospel, after weighing the several evidences of it, waver in their faith, would have wav'd, though they had seen the first promulgers work wonders. *Atterbury.*

WAVERRER. *n. f.* [from waver.] One unsettled and irresolute.

Come, young waverrer, come, and go with me;
In one respect I'll thy assistant be. *Shakespeare.*

WAVY. *adj.* [from wave.]
1. Rising in waves.

For thee the ocean smiles, and smooths her wavy breast;
And heav'n itself with more serene and purer light is blest. *Dryden.*

2. Playing to and fro, as in undulations.
Where full-car'd sheaves of rye
Grow wavy on the tilth, that soil select
For apples. *Philips.*

Let her glad vallies smile with wavy corn;
Let fleecy flocks her rising hills adorn. *Prior.*

WAVES, or wavs. *n. f.* A word used by *Spenser*, according to the Saxon pronunciation.

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1. For waves.
Another did the dying brands repair
With iron tongs, and sprinkled oft the fame
With liquid wavs. *Fairy Queen.*

2. In the following passage it seems to be for wocs [pa, Saxon.]
Whilst they fly that gulf's devouring jaws,
They on this rock are rent, and sink in helpless wavs. *Spenser.*

TO WAWL. *v. n.* [pa, griß, Saxon.] To cry; to howl.
The first time that we smell the air,
We wawle and cry. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

WAX. *n. f.* [paxe, Saxon; wex, Danish; wacks, Dutch.]

1. The thick tenacious matter gathered by the bee, and formed into cells for the reception of the honey.

Wax consists of an acid spirit, of a nauseous taste, and an oil or butter, which is emollient, laxative, and anodyne. *Arb.*
They give us food which may with nectar vie,
And wax, that does the absent sun supply. *Roscommon.*

All the magistrates, every new or full moon, give honour to Confucius with bowings, wax candles, and incense. *Stillin.*

While viits shall be paid on solemn days,
When num'rous wax lights in bright order blaze;
So long my honour, name, and praise shall live. *Pope.*

2. Any tenacious mass, such as is used to fasten letters.
We soften the wax, before we set on the seal. *More.*

3. A kind of concretion in the flesh.
A fontanel in her neck was much inflamed, and many wax-kernels about it. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

TO WAX. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To smear; to join with wax.

He form'd the reeds, proportion'd as they are;
Unequal in their length, and wav'd with care,
They still retain the name of his ungrateful fair. *Dryden.*

TO WAX. *v. n.* pret. *wax*, *waxed*, part. pass. *waxed*, *waxen*. [paxan, Saxon; *wachsen*, German.]

1. To grow; to increase; to become bigger, or more. Ufed of the moon, in opposition to *wane*, and figuratively of things which grow by turns bigger and less.

The husbandman in fowing and setting, upon good reason, observes the waxing and waning of the moon. *Hakewill.*

Land and trade are twins, they wax and wane together. *Child.*

2. To pass into any state; to become; to grow. It is in either sense now almost disused.

Where things have been instituted, which being convenient and good at the first, do afterward in process of time wax otherwise, we make no doubt but they may be altered, yea, though councils or customs general have received them. *Hooker.*

Careless the man soon wax, and his wit weak
Was overcome of things that did him please. *Fairy Queen.*

Art thou like the adder waxen dead?
We will destroy this place; because the cry of them is waxen great before the Lord. *Gen. xix. 13.*

Flowers removed wax greater, because the nourishment is more easily come by in the loose earth.

This answer given, Argantes wild drew near;
Trembling for ire, and waxing pale for rage;
Nor could he hold. *Fairfax, b. ii.*

If I wax but cold in my desire,
Think heav'n hath motion lost, and the world fire. *Donne.*

Their manners wax more and more corrupt, in proportion as their blessings abound. *Atterbury.*

WAXEN. *n. f.* [from wax.] Made of wax.
Swarming next appear'd
The female bee, that feeds her husband drone
Deliciously, and builds her waxen cells
With honey stor'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vii.*

I can yet shoot beams, whose heat can melt
The waxen wings of this ambitious boy. *Denham.*

So weary bees in little cells repose;
But if night-robbers lit the well-stor'd hive,
An humming through their waxen city grows,
And out upon each other's wings they drive. *Dryden.*

Others with sweets the waxen cells diffend. *Gay.*

WAY. *n. f.* [pceß, Saxon; *weigh*, Dutch.]

1. The road in which one travels.
I am amaz'd, and lose my way,
Among the thorns and dangers of this world. *Shakespeare.*

You cannot see your way.—
—I have no way, and therefore want no eyes:
I stumbled when I saw.
To God's eternal house direct the way, *Milton.*

A broad and ample road.
Flutt'ring the god, and weeping said,
Pity poor Cupid, generous maid!
Who happen'd, being blind, to stray,
And on thy bosom lost his way. *Prior.*

2. Broad road made for passengers.
Know'st thou the way to Dover?—
—Both stile and gate, horse-way, and foot-path. *Shakespeare.*

3. A length of journey.
An old man that had travelled a great way under a huge burden, found himself so weary, that he called upon death to deliver him. *L'Estrange.*